

APALACHICOLA LOBELIA

Lobelia apalachicolensis D.D. Spaulding, T.W.

Barger, & H.E. Horne

Synonyms: none

Family: Campanulaceae (bellflower)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-none



Floyd Griffith

Field Description: **Perennial herb** up to 1.9 m in height arising from basal offshoots with yellow, sticky sap. **Stems** may be branched just below the inflorescence and sparsely pubescent to glabrous, usually if pubescent more so basally. **Leaves** are alternately arranged and thick, fleshy, simple, ovate to elliptic, pubescent on the lower surfaces, with glandular toothed margins. The **inflorescence** is a raceme composed of epigynous flowers about 2.0 cm long. The **calyx** forms a tube which may be either hirsute or glabrous and warty while the calyx lobes are glabrous and toothed on the margins. **Corolla** is purple/blue with 5 lobes which are mostly glabrous except for the upper surface of the lower lip. **Flowers** are perfect and have 5 stamens which form a tube and the pistil with a 2-lobed stigma.

Similar Species: This species is most similar to southern lobelia (*L. georgiana*) but

Apalachicola lobelia

Lobelia apalachicolensis

differs in that the latter has a corolla that is usually entirely glabrous and lacks hair on the calyx tube. Glade lobelia (*L. glandulosa*) has linear to lanceolate leaves and zigzag stems. Downy lobelia (*L. puberula*) has densely pubescent stems, calyx lobes, and corollas.

Related Rare Species: Pond's lobelia (*Lobelia boykinii*) is believed to be extirpated from the state.

Habitat: Wet pine flatwoods, ecotones along tupelo swamps, seepage areas, and roadside ditches.

Best Survey Season: Flowers from September to November (Spaulding et al. 2016).

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to the Florida Panhandle where it is known from 4 counties.

Conservation Status: Nearly all the known populations are on conservation lands. However, many occurrences are within roadside ditches that are subject to mowing and other disturbances.

Protection and Management: Use prescribed fire every 2-3 years during the growing season and allow fires to naturally enter wetlands. Avoid ground disturbance to roadside ditches supporting this species during the flowering season from September to November.

References: Spaulding et al. 2016